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Letter dated 26 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The situation in Balkans continues to give rise to serious concerns. What is taking place there now is not a series of separate local crises, but the systematic destabilization of the entire region. We are firmly convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach to the settlement of Balkan problems, in order to give a decisive rebuff to extremism, terrorism and separatism. The main issue is to prevent a new redrawing of borders in the Balkans. Precisely for this reason, the Russian Federation has proposed creating a legal basis for regional stability in the form of legally binding agreements on observance of the universally acknowledged rules of international relations.

The difference in principle from the existing documents of a political nature lies in the fact that this would involve legal obligations and a mechanism for guaranteeing respect for them by the Security Council. In order to give effect to this initiative, I am transmitting to you a draft agreement on measures to strengthen sovereignty, territorial integrity and friendly good-neighbourly relations among States and to prohibit the use of their territories for purposes hostile to other States (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 26 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Agreement on measures to strengthen sovereignty, territorial integrity and friendly good-neighbourly relations among States and to prohibit the use of their territories for purposes hostile to other States

The States parties to the present Agreement,

Reaffirming the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations among all States,

Firmly resolved to take all necessary measures for the purpose of developing friendly relations on the basis of strict compliance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally acknowledged principles of sovereign equality of States, inviolability of borders, respect for territorial integrity, non-use of force or the threat of force and prohibition of the use of their territories for the organization, instigation and provision of assistance to or participation in paramilitary, terrorist or similar actions against other States,

Confirming their commitment to all the principles and norms embodied in the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for a New Europe, the Copenhagen Document of 1990, the Charter on European Security, the 1999 Declaration of the Istanbul Summit and the other documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and also in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Proceeding on the basis that any attempt to violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State or country or their political independence is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned at the escalation throughout the world of acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and of other illegal acts directed against the territorial integrity, sovereignty, political independence and security of States,

Noting the resolve of the leaders of all countries of the world expressed in the Millennium Declaration to take concerted action against international terrorism,

Considering that conscientious observance of the principles of international law relating to friendly relations and cooperation among States and conscientious discharge in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations of the obligations entered into by States are vital to the maintenance of international peace and security and the creation of a situation of stability and general well being of peoples,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The States parties shall take all necessary measures for the purpose of strengthening one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity and developing friendly good-neighbourly relations with one another.

Article 2

The States parties shall build their relations on the basis of mutual understanding, trust, respect and comprehensive cooperation, and of resolution of disputes and conflicts that arise exclusively by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice are not endangered.

Article 3

The States parties shall refrain from the threat of force or its use for the purpose of violating the existing borders of another State or as a means of resolving disputes between them, including territorial disputes, and issues relating to State borders.

Article 4

The States parties shall individually or collectively make every effort to put an end to and prevent manifestations of tension and crises, and shall not strengthen their security at the expense of the security of other States.

Article 5

The States parties shall take all necessary measures to prevent and halt acts of terrorism, protect their citizens and other persons against attempts to commit such acts and call to account persons guilty of committing such acts.

Article 6

The States parties shall, if they have not yet done so, take measures to classify terrorist acts as serious common crimes or serious offences under their domestic legislation.

Article 7

The States parties shall promote the rapid signature and ratification of international conventions relating to terrorism and/or accession to them in accordance with their domestic legislation.

Article 8

The States parties shall promote the development and intensification of bilateral, subregional and multilateral cooperation on issues relating to the activity of the police and intelligence services in order to prevent, halt and combat terrorism.

Article 9

The States parties shall unite efforts and take measures aimed at improving cooperation on issues relating to border security, carriage of goods and travel documents. They shall promote improved border control and information systems to prevent the movement of persons involved in terrorist acts and also the carriage of equipment, weapons and other materials that might be used to commit hostile acts against other States and their citizens.

Article 10

The States parties shall refrain from organizing or encouraging the organization of irregular forces or armed groups, including of mercenaries, for incursions into the territory of another State.

Article 11

The States parties shall refrain from organizing, instigating, rendering assistance to or participating in acts of civil war or terrorist acts in another State or from conniving at the organization in their territory of activity aimed at the commission of such acts, especially those associated with the threat or use of force.

Article 12

The States parties shall refrain from the use or encouragement of economic or political measures or measures of any other kind for the purpose of subordinating another State to them in the exercise of its sovereign rights and obtaining any kind of advantages whatsoever therefrom. They shall not organize, stir up, finance, instigate, permit or facilitate subversive or armed activity aimed at the violent overthrow of the Government of another State, and shall not intervene in an internal struggle in another State.

Article 13

The States parties shall inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of threats to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States so that measures may be taken for the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention of such threats.

Article 14

The States parties shall bring to the attention of the Security Council all cases of the occurrence or threat of the occurrence of conflict situations, especially of a military nature, in border regions of States, and all serious terrorist acts directed against the security, sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of States, so that the Security Council may, when it has determined the existence of a threat to the peace, decide on the adoption of provisional measures and, should it deem necessary, decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42 of the Charter of the United Nations to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Article 15

The States parties have agreed that the present Agreement should, in accordance with established practice, be approved by the Security Council of the United Nations and that at their request the Security Council and its permanent members should serve as political and moral guarantors of the comprehensive and conscientious implementation of this Agreement.

Article 16

The present Agreement shall be open for signature from _____ to _____ at the headquarters of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna. It shall be subject to ratification.

Article 17

The present Agreement shall enter into force two months after the date of deposit of the _____ instrument of ratification or document of accession.

The depositary of the present Agreement shall be the secretariat of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Article 18

DONE at _____ on _____ 2001 in the _____ languages, all texts being equally authentic.

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